

ON A NEW SPECIES OF DAVIESIA FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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Daviesia costata sp. nov.

Frutex glaber, 2-3½ pedalis, ramis basi nascentibus, erectus vel semi erectus, ramis et ramulis minus angularibus, distinctius striatis vel costatis. Foliis planis, vinearibus vel linearilanceolatis, apice acuminatis, basi attenuatis 5-20 cm. longis, 4-6 mm. latis, nervis centralibus in ramuli angulari decurrentibus. Inflorescentia racemosus vel irregularibus umbellatis, racemi gemini vel rarius fasciculiformibus, basi minute bracteati. Pedunculi 1-2½ cm. longe, pedicelli 5-10 mm. longe. Calyce distinctius costatis, quinque cum dentibus decurrentibus, quinque intermediis. Vexillum sub-orbicularibus et emarginatus, atro-purpureæ ad basi auranticum duplo longus alae et carinae.

A glabrous shrub varying from 2 to 3½ feet high, the branches arising from the base, erect or semi-erect, slightly angular, but distinctly ribbed or striated. Leaves flat, linear or linear-lanceolate, acuminate, varying from 5 to 20 cm. long, and from 4 to 6 mm. broad, with a strong central nerve or midrib, which runs more or less continuously down the attenuated base of the leaf and decurrent with the angles or ribs of the branches. Inflorescence usually racemose or irregularly umbellate, in pairs, or in clusters of four or sometimes more, in the axils of the leaves, the main peduncle varying from 1 to 2½ cm. long and the pedicels usually 5 to 10 mm. long, or occasionally both the peduncle and pedicels are longer, chiefly owing to the suppression of some of the flowers. When distinctly umbellate there are usually three or four, or rarely more flowers arising from the same point, and at the base of the pedicels there are a pair of bracts, the others being suppressed; but when the flowers are racemose, each flower has a minute bract at the base of the pedicel. Calyx distinctly costate, the five primary ribs extending and continued with the minute calyx-teeth; and five ribs intermediate between these main ribs. Standard sub-orbicular in general outline but distinctly emarginate, dark purple on the back and margins and orange at the centre and base, usually about as long again as the keel and wings, which appear to be of an orange or dark yellow colour. Pod acuminate, about 10-12 mm. long, 5-7 mm. broad, with a solitary brownish-coloured seed having a broad strophiole.

This species seems at first sight to closely resemble *D. Wyattiana*, Bailey, and may be classed in section *Racemosae*, as the flowers are on the whole more racemose than umbellate. It also somewhat resembles *D. longifolia*, Benth., but the leaves of the latter are very prominently striate and much narrower than those of the proposed new species.

The chief distinction between the eastern species (*D. Wyattiana*) and the proposed species is that the inflorescence is not so strictly umbellate and the branches and branchlets are not so strictly angular as in *D. Wyattiana*.

This new plant was first collected at Queenswood, on the Preston Valley Railway, by Mr. Max Koch in October, 1910; and bears the No. 2041. It has since been collected on sandy places in open jarrah forests, six miles from Donnybrook, in October, 1912, by the same collector.
